



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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FULL METAL JACKET: GUNS AND CALIF. POLITICS.

Editor's note: After signing 6 significant gun control bills last year, Gov. Gray Davis(D) asked the CA Legislature to hold off passing major guns bills for 2000 to give the new laws a chance to work. With the 2nd half of the legislative session just weeks old, it appeared that some Assembly Demos were defying the governor. Here's our update & analysis...

...Among the new major gun bills was AB 1607 by Assemblyman Kevin Shelley(D-S.F.). The subject was handgun registration and licensing. This bill was approved by the Public Safety Cmt. on a 5-2 vote, with 1 abstention, but was killed in the Appropriations Committee Jan. 19th. For those who aren't aware, Calif. is a handgun registration state – and has been since 1989...

...Specifically, AB 1607 would have required handguns purchased or owned prior to 1989 to now be registered and at a fee, even though right now these handguns are legal. Details are somewhat unclear and Shelley even admitted his bill was a work in progress. The main thing he wanted was to make his bill the key legislation on retroactive renewal registration and licensing. That won't happen now...

...One of the key problems with the bill was that the retroactive registration fee is considered by some (the NRA) to be an illegal personal property tax on household goods. And the renewal fee is clearly a personal property tax. Shelley doesn't agree, pointing to the annual vehicle license fee. But the common term used to describe the VLF is the "car tax." Estimated "fee" revenue from 1607: \$25 million per year, according to news reports. Shelley says that estimate is high..

...Sources say the gun lobby was promising help to those members who voted against AB 1607 - and believe it or not, there were moderate Demos and Demos

in marginal seats who wanted AB 1607 to move forward --- so they can vote against it and at the same time show support for Gov. Davis...

...FYI: And now here is where things get politically strange. In the Public Safety Cmt. hearing, the analysis of AB 1607 used the "T" (tax) word in its description of the bill. That description was enough to cause both GOP Assemblymen Jim Battin and Richard Dickerson to vote NO, but Public Safety Cmt. Vice Chair Jim Cunneen(R), who is facing a tough campaign in the open 15th CD, abstained, stating he could vote for a streamlined version of AB 1607. His comment was noted in at least one news story. The smart move for Cunneen would have been to follow Battin and Dickerson, but he didn't. Demo sources say Cunneen's statement will come back to bite him. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CA IS THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK IN POLLING GAME.

Editor's note: Although the L.A. Times and the Field Poll are still much better known, the S.F.-based Public Policy Institute of Calif. is making a name for itself by polling Calif.'s top of the ticket candidate contests and two initiatives which have major public policy implications. Here's our brief update...

...The PPIC name is beginning to show up with more frequency in mainstream news stories, as well as in Calpeek. PPIC polls first started to appear in the '98 election cycle and now veteran pollster Mark Baldassarre is conducting a series of 8 surveys in this 2000 election cycle. Three surveys have been released thus far, with a final poll due prior to the Mar. 7th primary...

...Each PPIC survey polls 2,000 Calif. households, with 1,000 being likely voters. In the current primary cycle, PPIC is tracking presidential and U.S. Senate

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candidates, as well as two very controversial ballot propositions: **22** (Limits on Marriage) and **26** (2/3rds to 50% on local school bonds). Field and the L.A. Times survey a larger number of initiatives, but that does not seem to bother Baldassare. In the general election, PPIC will continue with the presidential and U.S. Senate races and will pick 2-3 new initiatives to track. In addition to the initiatives, PPIC also looks at social and economic trends, such as gun control, education, the death penalty and taxing internet sales...

...The most current PPIC poll was conducted Jan. 2 to 10 and has a 3.5+/- margin of error. Here's a look at the Presidential primary in Calif. and Prop. 26:

...**Presidential primary**: on the GOP side, Texas Gov. George W. Bush continues to lead his rivals by a huge margin in the PPIC survey. U.S. Sen. John McCain is the only challenger in double-digits: **11%** vs. **56%** for Bush. No other GOPers got more than **3%** in the new survey. On the Demo side, VP Al Gore holds his lead over Bill Bradley: **48%** to **21%**. In Sept., Gore was at **50%** vs. **12%** – so Bradley is gaining ground in Calif...

...**Prop. 26**: this initiative for a 50% vote to approve local school bonds dropped dramatically in the new PPIC survey. The drop has been attributed to a change in the wording of the initiative, which now outlines the local tax impact should Prop. 26 be approved. Prior to the change, support in the PPIC poll was at **64%** in November. Now support stands at just **44%** - a **20%** drop in the January PPIC poll. The current Field Poll showed a **16%** drop...

...FYI: the PPIC poll on Prop. 26 also showed the following. Among Demos, it's winning **51%** vs. **38%**; among GOPers it's the opposite – **33%** vs. **56%**. In L.A., Prop. 26 is losing by a margin of **39%** YES vs. **49%** NO. In the Bay area, Prop. 26 is winning with **50%**. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Jan. 24	Iowa Caucus
Jan. 27	State of the Union
Jan. 27	Campaign reports due (1/1 to 1/22)
Feb. 1	New Hampshire Primary
Feb. 4-6	CA Republican Party convention at the Burlingame Hyatt Hotel
Feb. 7	Last day to register for CA's Mar. 7 primary
Feb. 11-13	CA Demo Party convention in San Jose

CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: FOLLOW THE MONEY.
Editor's note: The contribution totals are cumulative over the course of the primary campaign. The figures are as of 12/31/99, when the reporting period ended. Sources: news media reports, as well as info from the various campaigns...

	<u>Raised</u>	<u>cash on hand</u>
Prop. 22 (Limitations on Marriage)		
YES	\$4,854,473	\$2,315,000
NO	\$2,141,614	\$ 412,417

Prop. 25 (Campaign Reform)		
YES	\$ -0-	-0-
Note: the YES side lists debts of \$824,000		
NO	\$682,500	\$425,373

Prop. 26 (2/3rds to 50% on school bonds)		
YES	\$6,961,674	\$1,399,192
NO	\$ 658,121	\$ 199,429

Prop. 28 (Repeal of Prop. 10)		
YES	\$ 994,146	\$ 5,334
NO	\$1,340,000	\$1,240,000

Note: In addition to the main YES on 28 committee, there is a second committee – CA Assn. of Retail Tobacconists – who have raised \$6,300.

Prop. 30-31 (Referendum on AB 1237)		
YES	\$1.3 million	
NO	\$44,063,961	\$23,133,189

Prop. 1-A (Indian Gaming Compact)		
YES	\$7.3 million	\$5.8 million
NO	\$2,237	\$1,800

CAMPAIGN 2000: ASSEMBLY PRIMARY CONTESTS.
Editor's note: Here is Part II in Calpeek's continuing coverage of key legislative primaries...

☒ **61st AD** – This is the open seat now represented by Nell Soto(D-Pomona), who did not file for reelection because she is running for the open 32nd SD of new U.S. Rep. Joe Baca(D). The 61st AD is considered a swing district – it could go GOP or Demo in 2000, depending upon the nominees. On the Demo side, there are two candidates: Ontario school board member Paul Avila and community college trustee Gloria Negrete McLeod. McLeod ran against Soto in '98 and is now considered a favorite to win the primary...

...On the GOP side there's a dog fight. Hardline conservative Bob DeMaillie wants another shot – Soto creamed him in '98 because he was just too conservative for this AD. This time around DeMaillie faces Pomona Mayor Eddie Cortez, who refused to endorse DeMaillie in '98; and Chino Councilman

Dennis Yates. While DeMaillie goes after Cortez (lots of bad blood between them), Yates is doing a good job of picking up local endorsements and raising money. Yates is a mainstream GOPer who is considered labor-friendly. Although former 61st AD Assemblyman Fred Aguiar(R) recently dropped his support of Cortez, the GOP Caucus thinks you need a Latino to win this AD and favors Cortez. Sources rate this primary as a toss up...

☒ **45th AD** – This seat is now held by *termed out* Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. It's solid Demo turf – GOPers need not apply. It's a two-candidate race, with 3 people on the ballot. L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg undoubtedly has better name ID than Cesar Portillo – and has done much better in terms of fundraising (Goldberg \$330,334 vs. Portillo \$136,844), but that is not the whole story. Antonio De La Rosa has dropped out and has endorsed Portillo, but his name remains on the ballot. Latino powerhouse Sen. Richard Polanco is backing Portillo, a former teacher turned healthcare advocate. But Goldberg has her share of Latino support too, including Speaker Villaraigosa, L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina, L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca and the UFW. And in case you didn't know it, Portillo is gay and Goldberg is a lesbian. Edge to Goldberg...

☒ **77th AD** – This is one of those GOP primaries that could get very nasty. Current Assemblyman Steve Baldwin(R) is *termed out*. This seat is solid GOP turf, but El Cajon Deputy Mayor Todd Keegan(D) is in the race anyway. There are 4 GOPers in this primary, but only two count: La Mesa school board member Penny Halgen, a pro-choice moderate; and La Mesa Vice Mayor Jay La Suer, a hardliner who is backed by Baldwin. The winner will be candidate who makes the least number of mistakes and Halgen has already made one major goof. She went out of her way to brag about her contributions, but it turns out she used 3 of her credit cards to make temporary loans totaling \$50,000. Given the way this AD votes, edge to La Suer...

☒ **59th AD** – This seat now belongs to GOP Assemblyman Bob Margett of Arcadia, who is giving it up to run for the open 29th SD of his mentor, Sen. Dick Mountjoy(R). This seat is safe GOP turf. There are 6 GOPers, but only two are in the top tier. Covina Councilman Walt Allen, who is black, has most of the slates and loads of police support. He's incoming president of the CA Narcotics Officers Assn. The other top tier candidate is Dennis Mountjoy, son of Dick - same genes and great name ID. In the 2nd tier are Arcadia school board member Joann Steinmeier; Arcadia Councilman Robert Harbicht, who has raised some serious \$\$; and Claremont Councilman Al Leiga. Our sources rate this primary as a toss up. FYI: sources say Sen. Mountjoy is not thrilled that Margett is *neutral* in this primary...

☒ **38th AD** – This is the San Fernando Valley/Ventura Co. AD of Assemblyman Tom McClintock(R), who is *termed out* and running for the 19th SD. The 38th AD is safe GOP turf. There are 3 GOPers in the race: Dr. Keith Richman, son of Monroe Richman, the former L.A. Community College trustee; businessman Ross Hopkins; and Simi Valley school board member Norm Walker, who was a former aid to McC. Richman has raised a ton of money (\$315,505), while the other two are on

starvation budgets. And Richman has some good endorsements too, such as State Sen. Cathie Wright, U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon, L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, L.A. Councilman Hal Bernson, Ventura Co. Sup. Judy Mikels (who is running against McC); and Simi Valley Mayor Bill Davis and the entire city council. Hopkins' list of supporters is small, but he's run in the 38th once before (so he has some residual name ID). And like Richman, he's a moderate GOPer. Walker is a hardline conservative and they are rallying behind him - McC, former Assemblywoman Paula Bolland, Sen. Dick Mountjoy and the CRA. Walker is a two-term school board member, so he's got name ID in the Simi Valley area. Sources rate Richman as the frontrunner, but every vote Hopkins gets is a vote from Richman's base. In a tight race, Walker is well positioned to pull an upset...

...More next week --- and we'll begin expanding our legislative updates to include State Senate races as well. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key U.S. House primary contests in Calif...

☒ **38th CD** – Taking on popular U.S. Rep. Steve Horn(R-Long Beach) won't be easy for the Demos in 2000, as this 4 term House member continues to do well in this Demo leaning CD. Four Demos want a shot at Horn, but there's only one who has a solid chance, if she can get by the primary, and those prospects are looking better: well known Long Beach teacher Erin Gruwell, twice teacher of the year with an impressive bio. She faces perennial Demo Peter Matthews and attorney Gerrie Schipske, who is endorsed by L.A. Co. COPE. Gruwell was late getting into the primary, but has done well in fundraising and has won some local backing. Her biggest supporter is U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. Schipske must be feeling the heat because she's hitting Gruwell for moving into the 38th CD from Orange Co., which is true. But Gruwell's family has lived in Long Beach for 3 generations. Edge to Gruwell, who has momentum...

☒ **31st CD** – State Sen. Hilda Solis(D-Rosemead) is on a roll in her primary against incumbent U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez(D). Solis has won the backing of Emily's List and 31st CD Demo caucus – meaning she'll be the officially endorsed candidate of the Calif. Demo Party(CDP)...

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For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: calpeek@aol.com. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Gore Taps Davis to Chair Calif.** – VP Al Gore's campaign announced that Gov. Gray Davis will chair Gore's Calif. operation, while U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein will serve as co-chairs. Among the vice chairs, Gore will have Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, Treas. Phil Angelides, AG Bill Lockyer, SPI Delaine Eastin and Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. So who's missing? Need you ask: Demo Controller Kathleen Connell...

■ **Becerra to Run for L.A. Mayor** – No shock here as U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra(D) said Jan. 18th that he plans to run for L.A. Mayor in 2001. He's the fifth major candidate to announce...

■ **New U.S. Senate Poll** – The Public Policy Inst. of CA has new polling numbers (Jan. 2-10, 1,000 likely voters) – and there are no surprises as incumbent U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) continues to lead the open primary field with **53%**. The only GOPer in double-digits is U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell with **12%**. FYI: Campbell did not move from the Dec. '99 PPIC survey. In 3rd is State Sen. Ray Haynes with **4%**. Next is San Diego Co. Sup. Bill Horn with **3%** and last is J.P. Gough with **1%**...

■ **Anti-El Toro Group Gets a Break** – The City of Tustin, which in the past has been a supporter of a new commercial airport at the former Marine Corps air station, has switched sides. They now support Measure F on Orange Co.'s Mar. 7th primary ballot. "F" would require a 2/3rds public vote for a new or expanded airport at El Toro. The other piece of news which has the YES side saying, "*We told you so,*" is that county officials now say the cost of the proposed airport at El Toro has doubled to \$2.9 billion!!!

■ **On Calpeek's Must Read List** – Article in the Jan. 19th edition of the L.A. Times/Orange Co. by political writer Jean Pasco about a new round of GOP civil war in O.C. between a group composed of high-powered GOP business types pushing a more moderate and mainstream agenda vs. the county's hardline conservatives, led by O.C. GOP Chair Tom Fuentes. The business execs go by the name of *New Majority Com-*

mittee. The list of members is impressive and Pasco reports this group has raised \$500,000 thus far to spend on candidates it supports. Well worth reading...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: former State Sen. Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville), died Jan. 13th. He was 84 and served in the Legislature from 1947 to 1976. R.I.P...

● Gov. Davis has appointed John S. Woolley to the CA Coastal Commission for the No. Coast region...

● Former Rolling Hills Councilwoman Gordana Swanson has been appointed by Gov. Davis to the FPPC. She replaces James Porter, who resigned...

● Stefanie Lopez has joined Nelson Communications Group in Irvine as an associate...

● Marylou Ferry, formerly corporate & political affairs director at ARCO, has been hired as a VP of p/a by Fleishman-Hillard in their L.A. office...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Steven Nissen as acting Staff Director for his office. Nissen is already a member of the administration...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Calif. Transit Association** seeks Mobilization Director and Program Associate. The midlevel Director will design/conduct training in grassroots, marketing, legislative process. The entry-level Associate will coordinate events, publish magazine, provide administrative support. For information, see www.transitassociation.org/news/index/htm1#classified.

● **Los Angeles Democratic** political law firm seeks energetic, detail-oriented individual with good people skills for full-time employment in expanding campaign treasury department. Fund-raising experience helpful. Fax resume to Smith Kaufman LLP (213)623-4619 or e-mail to lolagues@smithkaufman.com.

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